

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05948 271341Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----271347Z 130685 /23 45

O R 271240Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6915
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T KUWAIT 5948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH, KU
SUBJECT: ZIMBAWE DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: (A) STATE 304674, (B) STATE 306303

1. I DELIVERED UNOFFICIAL COPY OF JOINT US/UK LETTER FROM
SECRETARIES KISSINGER AND CROSLAND ON ZIMBAWE DEVELOPMENT
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05948 271341Z

FUND, TOGETHER WITH ENCLOSURES (REF. B) DEC. 27 TO FOREIGN
MINSTER SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMED AL-SABAH. I TOLD HIM SIGNED
ORIGINALS WOULD ARRIVE DEC. 31. I REVIEWED FOR HIM
PRINCIPAL POINTS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER (REF. B),
INCLUDING THE SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND BY KUWAIT. I
PROVIDED AS WELL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE US AND UK INTENDED

CONTRIBUTIONS.

2. DURING MY PRESENTATION, SABAH AL-AHMED ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS THE PROPOSAL--INVOLVING SOME \$200 MILLION--REPORTED BY PRESS DURING THE SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS AN ELABORATION OF AN EXTENSIVE PLAN TO DRAW TOGETHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE TO ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN A FUTURE INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE AND THUS TO FORESTALL INCREASED RACIAL TENSION AND FURTHER ARMED CONFLICT AND BLOODSHED. I STRESSED THAT THIS WAS NOT A PROPOSAL TO BUY OUT WHITE RHODESIANS AND CAUTIONED AGAINST GIVING CREDENCE TO ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORTS IN THIS VEIN.

3. AS EXPECTED, SABAH AL-AHMED SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE ME ANY KIND OF ANSWER UNTIL HE HAD STUDIED THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED. HOWEVER HE DID NOTE THAT KUWAIT WAS ALREADY ACTIVE IN CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE KUWAIT FUND (KFAED) AND A BANK FOR AFRICA (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE ARAB-AFRICAN BANK MANAGED BY KUAITIS BUT HEADQUARTERED IN CAIRO). MOREOVER, KUWAIT ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO LDC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE OPEC DEVELOPMENT FUND, TO WHICH A NEW INCREMENT OF \$800 MILLION HAD BEEN ADDED BY OPEC COUNTRIES MEETING RECENTLY AT DOHA. I OBSERVED THAT KUWAIT'S EFFORTS IN THE AID FIELD ARE WELL-KNOWN AND APPRECIATED AND SUGGESTED THAT KUWAIT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND MIGHT BE CHanneLED IN PART THROUGH SUCH KUWAITI INSTITUTIONS. I NOTED THAT, AT SOME POINT, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY FOR THE POTENTIAL DONORS TO MEET IN
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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 05948 271341Z

ORDER TO DISCUSS HOW CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ZIMBABWE FUND MIGHT BE PROVIDED.

4. OUR DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER CONCLUDED WITH SABAH AL-AHMED PROMISING TO STUDY THE MATERIAL PROVIDED IN THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROPOSAL.

5. COMMENT: SABAH AL-AHMED APPEARED LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC AS I DESCRIBED THE FUND PROPOSAL TO HIM. HIS PROMPT REFERENCE TO KUWAITI CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE GOK MAY BE WILLING TO CONSIDER BILATERAL AID VIA KUWAITI FUND INSTITUTIONS IN ZIMBABWE. I DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOK WILL BE TOO ANXIOUS TO CONTRIBUTE CASH FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT, EVEN THROUGH A ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND MECHANISM.
MAESTRONE

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